

auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Today there are more than 56,000 members in the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The membership of the CAP is comprised of cadets between the ages of 12 and 18, and senior members, who are 18 or older. The Michigan Wing of the CAP currently has 487 cadets and 740 senior members. The CAP has three missions; to run cadet programs to build character, leadership, patriotism, and honor; to promote aerospace education; and to serve as a primary resource for the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

The Oakland Composite Squadron, which is located in Waterford, Michigan, has 57 members, 29 of whom are cadets. Earlier this year, five of those cadets stepped forward to serve as members of the squadron's Color Guard Team. The team appears at public events like parades and veterans' ceremonies presenting and posting colors. They also participated in Color Guard competitions which require dedication, team work, and exceptional academic success.

After embarking on a rigorous training regimen that required physical and mental discipline, the Oakland Composite Squadron Color Guard went on to win first place overall at the Michigan Wing competition after sweeping all seven events on March 30. Then, on May 4, the team once again won first place overall at the Great Lakes Regional competition. They would go on to represent the entire region, consisting of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin in the National Cadet Competition on June 30. At the National Competition, the team took second place in the Academic Panel Quiz and tied for third place overall.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate these cadets for their hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent these young men and women who have shown such character in competition. Theirs is a shining example of what we are all capable of achieving with dedication and hard work.

THE FUEL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, Today I, along with Representatives CHRIS SHAYS and HEATH SHULER, introduced H.R. 6687, the Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act of 2008.

This bill would help ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") has the resources it needs to enforce our nation's immigration laws in the face of the rising cost of fuel.

Last year, ICE budgeted \$20 million for fuel expenses, but the rising price of gas forced them to spend more than \$40 million.

Even more alarming, it appears the \$20 million fuel budget was based on an assumption by the Department of Homeland Security that the price of gas was approximately \$1.62 per gallon.

The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act would require the Department of Homeland Security to begin using realistic estimates for ICE's fuel expenses. Specifically, it would re-

quire the Department to calculate, on an annual basis, the cost of fuel expenses for all vehicles owned or operated by ICE according to gasoline prices reported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update, and then report those calculations to Congress.

ICE is tasked with enforcing our nation's immigration laws, and is absolutely critical to the Phoenix metropolitan area as well as other metropolitan areas in the southwest where criminal aliens set up drop houses as way stations for drug, weapon and human smuggling operations. The Phoenix metro area in particular is estimated to have as many as 1000 such drop houses.

The House Appropriations Committee recently said, in no uncertain terms, that, "ICE should have no greater immigration enforcement priority than to remove violent, deportable criminal aliens from the United States." I couldn't agree more.

We need to ensure that ICE has the resources it needs to crack down on drop houses and other criminal alien enterprises. When ICE is unable to meet its responsibilities, it falls to local law enforcement to fill the gap. Our local law enforcement is already stretched thin, and I fear the burden will be even greater if ICE is forced to scale back its efforts due to an increase in the price of gas.

If we are serious about enforcing our nation's immigrations laws, we need to provide the resources necessary to get the job done. The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act will help ensure that ICE has what it needs, in the face of rising fuel expenses.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9981, in which President Truman ordered the racial integration of the Armed Forces, declaring that, "there be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

While it is fitting that we celebrate the official 60-year anniversary, we should also recognize that African Americans have been fighting on behalf of our Nation from the American Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terror. The sacrifices made and service given by African American soldiers to our country, even when our country failed to live up to its own promise of equality and justice for all, is a testament to their belief that hard work and faith would eventually allow them to become full partners in every facet of society, including our Armed Forces.

The celebration of this anniversary also gives me an opportunity to recognize a trail-blazing African American woman from my hometown who was among the first five African American women in Tampa to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps back in 1942,

six years prior to the signing of the Executive Order. Mrs. Willie Mae Williams, who celebrated her 95th birthday this past November, proudly served her nation paving the way for others from her community, and women in particular, to follow in her steps.

In her recent interview with the Women Veterans Historical Project for the Library of Congress, Mrs. Williams gave a very candid and informative look at the experience she had in the military as a woman of color. At that time, women were not allowed to face combat, instead serving as cooks and laundry workers, who often had to go together in groups to take showers to ensure their safety, and who endured taunts from officers who opposed their participation, either on the basis of their gender or color, and in some instances both. While Mrs. Williams acknowledged that life in the service for women of color was "rough", she certainly views herself and others as role models for the women who came after. She observed, "We were good pioneers."

Indeed, the service of Mrs. Williams and other women like her has led to the growth in service of African American women and men throughout the years. Currently, 20 percent of the more than 1,754,900 service members who have fought in support of the ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are minorities, evidence that the United States could not maintain an all-volunteer force without the service of and critical role played by minorities, including women.

Our Armed Forces have been served by some of the most brilliant African American leaders from Benjamin O. Davis Senior and Junior to Colin Powell as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Today, minorities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as commissioned, warrant and non-commissioned officers. The advancement of these men and women is evidence that the integration of the Armed Forces not only enhanced the combat effectiveness of the military 60 years ago, but continues still to ensure that America has a diverse array of its best and brightest working to defend it.

I am pleased to commemorate this historic event, and salute all our brave men and women who have served us so well through the years.

IN HONOR OF SGT MARCO ROBLEDO

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam, Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American hero, SGT Marco Robledo from the Third District of Arkansas.

Marco has selflessly served in the United States Army. The commitment he showed his fellow soldiers and his country is something we can all be proud of.

On May 26, 2007, Marco was injured in Iraq. He lost his left arm and his left leg, but he still has a strong spirit and he's made lasting impressions with me and with others who've had the opportunity to meet him.

In honor of his sacrifice Albert Casewell wrote the following poem:

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

SGT Marco Robledo

The United States Army

1st platoon A.CO. 875th en bn

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . .
While, cheating death . . . one of America's
very Best . . .

One of America's very finest . . . who he has
her our nation so blessed . . .

A Hero who goes off to war . . .

Upon, battlefields of honor . . . who but
gives up his arm and leg for us, would
bore . . .

All so Freedom can endure, while standing
alone at death's dark door . . .

As he walked through The Valley of Death!
Returning home, as there he lie right at the
very edge . . .

At the abyss, all the between life and death
. . . with but only his fine courage
left . . .

And then!

To rebuild, where non lies left . . . moment
by moment, as he would etch . . .

As most thought that he was left for dead,
but not him . . . with his courage
pledged . . .

As Day in and out . . .

While, all around him such pain and heart-
ache was but his to tout . . .

As against all odds, his fine heart would
shout . . .

It's not my time . . .

Some way I'll find, my way back . . . with
but my heart and soul, and mind . . .

Just Amazing, in what his life is saying . . .
Just Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . a soul
which shines!

Such a young heart . . .

And yet, such a strong soul and mind . . .
who has already lived two lifetimes of
gold . . .

As a Warrior and Hero first, then one of in-
spiration . . . facing but the worst so
bold . . .

Put upon this earth . . .

To but show mankind's great true fine
worth . . .

Our Lord's messenger to teach us, to reach
us so deep down inside so first!

In our times and in our lives . . .

What is it that we have so strived?

That's so Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . that so
defines . . . as most have not lived such
fine lives!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 30, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 542, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and rollcall vote No. 543, H.R. 4040, the Conference Report for the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 542 and 543.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GEN
RICHARD A. CODY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of GEN Richard A. Cody who is retiring after serving our nation's military with distinction for 36 years.

General Cody was born in Montpelier, Vermont. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy. General Cody's military education also includes the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College. General Cody is a Master Aviator with over 5,000 hours of flight time and is an Air Assault graduate.

General Cody has received numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the United States Army. These decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with numeral device "3"), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the NATO medal, as well as various other service awards.

General Cody became the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 24, 2004. He and his wife are also very proud of their two sons, who both are serving as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, I know that Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to GEN Richard A. Cody for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers, the United States Army, and the safety and security of America. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join in me in wishing General Cody, his wife, and their two sons all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040) and to commend Chairman DINGELL and the conferees for their hard work on this important issue. In a recent letter to the conferees, I joined several other members in support of this bill and I am pleased that Congress is moving forward on this legislation that will help ensure the safety of America's children and consumers.

According to a leading consumer rights group, more than 45 million toys and children's products were recalled because of unsafe toxins and choking hazards in 2007. Data for 2008 shows that there have been 22 percent more recalls in the first half of this year as compared to the same period in 2007. Toy

safety, which has been called "last year's problem" by the toy industry, is still very much an urgent, current challenge. Congress must act to ensure that the products and toys our children are exposed to are free of toxins and hazards.

The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act takes bold measures to enhance the safety of products available to our children. This legislation takes a strong stand against destructive oil industry interests by banning toxic phthalates in children's toys. Studies indicate that exposure to phthalates in childhood increases the risk of cancer as an adult. It mandates third-party testing and certification for certain children's toys and materials, which were previously voluntary. The bill also has new protections for whistleblowers that will help ensure consumer safety by making it easier for employees to alert the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about possible hazards before products reach the public.

Part of the toy safety problem has been the lack of capacity of the CPSC. The CPSC has been underfunded and inadequately equipped to ensure the safety of the products available to children. Staff levels at CPSC are currently less than half of 1980 levels. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act bolsters CPSC capacity by increasing funding and staffing for the agency, a significant step toward ensuring safety for our children. Also, by banning industry-sponsored travel by CPSC Commissioners and staff and restoring the five-member commission, the legislation prevents potential conflicts of interest that may jeopardize toy safety.

It is unacceptable for parents to have to worry about toys harming their children. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act is timely and targeted bipartisan legislation that takes significant steps to ensure that America's children are kept safe from harmful toxins in their toys. I urge my colleagues to support the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act and give this bill my full support.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-needed authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and marketing of tobacco products.

As we all know, tobacco use contributes to the death of more than 400,000 Americans and costs the nation's health care system nearly \$100 billion each year. The most tragic part of this statistic is that virtually all of these deaths are preventable. It is alarming that preventable diseases such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer all can be attributed to the use of tobacco.

In addition to providing consumers with science-based information about tobacco products, granting FDA the authority to regulate tobacco will more importantly help protect